THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic clearance on 28.2.2002 to Almatti Dam Power House (1 x 15 + 5 x 55 =290 MW) for execution by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited at an estimated completed cost of US $ 3.50 million plus Rs. 657.75 crores (equivalent to Rs. 674.38 crores) including Interest During Construction and financing charges of Rs. 106.12 crores at an exchange rate of 1US$ = 47.50.

Demand and availability of power in N.E. States

2299. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the State-wise demand and availability of power in North East and steps taken to improve the situation; and

(b) the details of the action finalized to ensure availability of power in the North-Eastern States through reorganization of the existing distribution system indicating central assistance earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) State-wise requirement and availability of energy and demand in N.E. Region for the period April 2002-June 2002, is given below:—

(Energy MU)

Sl. No.	State	Energy Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/ deficit (MU)(-)	% age
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	36	36	0	0
2.	Assam	833	810	-23	-2.8
3.	Manipur	108	106	-2	-1.9
4.	Meghalaya	206	205	-1	-0.5
5.	Mizoram	70	69	-1	-1.4
6.	Nagaland	67	66	-1	-1.5
7.	Tripura	170	153	-17	-10.0
	TOTAL	1490	1445	-45	-3.0

Sl. No.	State	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Demand Met (MW)	Surplus/ Deficit (MW)(-)	%age
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	45	44	-1	-2.2
2.	Assam	650	565	-85	-13.1
3.	Manipur	100	100	0	0.0
4.	Meghalaya	160	153	-7	4.4
5.	Mizoram	74	72	-2	-2.7
6.	Nagaland	61	61	0	0
7.	Tripura	158	112	-48	-29.1
	Total	1081	981	-100	-9.3

The North-Eastern Region runs in synchronization with Eastern Region. There is considerable increase in power availability in North-Eastern Region due to the addition in capacity by North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) and assistance from ER. About 200 MW of surplus power from NEEPCO is available in NER. However, due to transmission and financial constraints to purchase high cost power from Central Power Units/Surplus States in North-Eastern Region, some States like Assam and Tripura are facing energy shortages and high peak shortages.

During the 10th Plan a capacity addition of about 685 MW has been targetted in North-Eastern Region. In addition to the above, presently 34 hydro schemes with total installed capacity of 26031 MW are under various stages of survey and investigation in the North-Eastern Region.

(b) On 12.1.2000, the Prime Minister announced a package of Rs. 239.92 crores for development of Sub-Transmission & Distribution System in North-Eastern States and Sikkim. A sum of Rs. 52 crores was released to the States for the on-going schemes during 2000-01. Further, Rs. 16.83 crores were released to the States during 2001-02. Department of Development of North-Eastern Region have recommended a further release of Rs. 25.34 crores during 2002-03.

The Government of India has taken up Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme for strengthening and upgrading the Sub-Transmission and Distribution Systems in the country. The States of North-East and Sikkim are being provided funds with 90% grant and

10% loan since these States fall under the Special-category. Rs. 43.20 crores have been provided in the year 2000-01 and Rs. 24.30 crores was released during the year 2001-02 for various schemes under APDRP in NER.

Uniform electricity tariff rates

2300. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to introduce uniform electricity tariff rates throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

Consumer tariffs are required to be fixed by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) in the States where such Commissions have been set up under the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) Act, 1998 or under the State Reform Acts. Where the SERCs have not been set up or are yet to become fully functional, tariffs are to be determined by the State Electricity Boards/State Electricity Departments/licensees.

(b) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

(c) In view of (a) & (b) above the question does not arise.

Protest against the Power Tariff Revision

2301. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been protest against the power tariff revision at several places throughout India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Some categories of